

REPRESENTATIVE KENDALL VAN DYK  
PO BOX 441  
BILLINGS MT 59103-0441

EXHIBIT 18  
DATE 1-29-09  
HB 253

Dear REPRESENTATIVE KENDALL VAN DYK,

Buffalo Field Campaign, a Montana based non-profit, wants to share with you our support for HB 253, the Montana Wild Buffalo Recovery and Conservation Act of 2009 with the proviso our state take the initiative to conserve and protect year-round habitat in Montana to sustain a viable population of wild buffalo. We encourage you to contact the sponsors of HB 253 to support a habitat amendment to the bill to secure a viable future for wild buffalo in Montana.

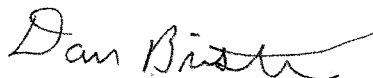
It is essential for Montana to acknowledge a place for American buffalo in our natural heritage, to recognize this indigenous wildlife species role in sustaining American Indian cultures, in keeping grasslands healthy, and supporting native plant and wildlife species that thrive from buffalo's presence on the land.

HB 253 is a step in the right direction for Montana, one that begins to treat wild buffalo as a valued native wildlife species. It is critical for Montana to recognize in the law the rights of local residents and private property owners who want buffalo on their land to be free from government harassment and harm. The local economies near Yellowstone National Park that benefit from having wildlife species also need to have their interests represented in the law. With a habitat amendment and initiatives to restore wild buffalo in land that is their birth right, future generations will benefit from the visionary actions we take today to restore buffalo in our state.

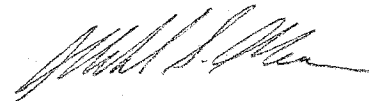
Buffalo Field Campaign has also prepared information to introduce you to our organization, our mission, vision and values, and provided contact information for the people who lead our advocacy in restoring wild buffalo in their native habitat in Montana.

Thank you for your service to Montana in the 61<sup>st</sup> Legislature. Please contact us if we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,



Daniel Brister, Executive Director  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
(406) 726-5555  
[bfc@wildrockies.org](mailto:bfc@wildrockies.org)

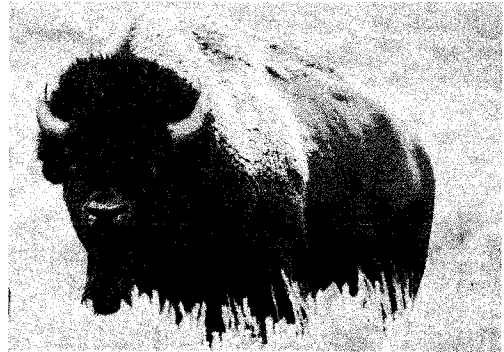


Michael S. Mease, Campaign Coordinator  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
(406) 646-0070  
[mease@wildrockies.org](mailto:mease@wildrockies.org)

## Buffalo Field Campaign Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Online: <http://www.buffalo-field-campaign.org/aboutus/visionmission.html>

**Vision:** We envision a life for buffalo in which they thrive within the state of inherent wildness as expressed in the Buffalo Bill of Rights. We also envision a world in which buffalo and all other native wildlife are given precedence on public land, and that buffalo herds will remain as a self-regulating sustainable population, and a viable genetic source for the future evolutionary potential of the species.



**Mission:** To stop the slaughter of Yellowstone's wild buffalo herd, protect the natural habitat of wild free-roaming buffalo and native wildlife, and to work with people of all Nations to honor the sacredness of the wild buffalo.

**Core Values:** Sustainability, Community, Education, Wildlife, Co-existence, Ecology/Phenology, Environmental Activism, Preservation, Sound Science, Respect, Integrity, Honor, Spirituality, Creativity, Fun, Not bound by convention, Non-violence, Open Communications, Honor all cultures and celebrate diversity.

## Buffalo Bill of Rights

Online: <http://www.buffalo-field-campaign.org/aboutbuffalo/buffalobillofrights.html>

- ◊ To be honored with respect to their cultural and spiritual significance to the Indigenous people of this continent.
- ◊ To be recognized for their potential to educate our communities regarding sustainable co-existence between humans and wildlife.
- ◊ Re-establish historical migration patterns.
- ◊ Establish a sustainable population growth rate.
- ◊ Fulfill their inherent ecological role within their native range.
- ◊ Exist within their innate social structure and functional herd dynamic.
- ◊ Live out their natural life cycle as a wild species.
- ◊ Exist as the genetic wellspring for future wild, free ranging bison populations.

## CONTACT BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN



Buffalo Field Campaign  
PO Box 957 West Yellowstone, Montana 59758-0957  
(406) 646-0070 phone  
(406) 646-0071 fax  
<http://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/>

Buffalo Field Campaign, formerly Buffalo Nations, was founded in 1997 by Rosalie Little Thunder and Seventh Generation Fund's Tatanka Oyate Project, and Michael Mease, from the nonprofit video group Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers to be a year-round in the field campaign presence and advocate for Yellowstone's wild buffalo.

Buffalo Field Campaign is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the state of Montana to protect, preserve, and expand the range of Yellowstone's wild buffalo. Our internationally recognized organization is comprised of people from all walks of life and ages, from all 50 United States, Israel, Australia, Germany, France, Lithuania, Poland, South Korea, Ecuador, Canada and several North American Indian territories.

Seventh Generation Fund's Tatanka Oyate Project  
Rosalie Little Thunder, 615 Kansas City St., Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 719-3012 (work), [wakinyeis@yahoo.com](mailto:wakinyeis@yahoo.com)  
[http://7genfund.org/contact\\_us.php](http://7genfund.org/contact_us.php)

### Buffalo Field Campaign People

Executive Director: Daniel Brister, MS [bfb@wildrockies.org](mailto:bfb@wildrockies.org)  
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Maintenance Coordinators: Red; Noah Richards [maintenance@buffalofieldcampaign.org](mailto:maintenance@buffalofieldcampaign.org)  
Kitchen Coordinator: Michael Bowersox, [seasc@peace@riseup.net](mailto:seasc@peace@riseup.net)

## NEW LICENSE PLATE FOR MONTANA: LET BUFFALO ROAM

Wild buffalo advocates can show their support for native wild buffalo with issuance of a new Montana license plate.



The license plate features an image of a buffalo emerging over grassland and the words "Let Buffalo Roam" is now available at all Montana Department of Motor Vehicles locations. Proceeds benefit Buffalo Field Campaign's work to protect wild buffalo and their native habitat in Yellowstone. License plate information online:

<http://www.dmv.mt.gov/driving/licenseplates.asp>